Sonobuoy Processing and Control Svstem

804. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sonobuoy Processing and Control System essential for processing of date relating to submarine was developed in June, 1987 to meet Navy's projected operational demand;

(b) if so, the amount invested therein;

(c) whether the efficacy and acceptability of the system was yet to be established before paving the way for bulk production; and

(d) if so, the reasons for undertaking this project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The project Sonobuoy Processing and Control System was successfully developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in June 1989. The technology was transferred to Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., (ECIL) Hyderabad.

(b) The total development cost of the project was 215.03 lakh.

(c) The efficacy and acceptability of the system has been established through extensive trials conducted on submarine and various airborne platforms. The system was cleared for induction in 1991. Production order for 11 systems has been placed on M/s. ECIL, Hyderabad.

(d) India has a vast coastline and many strategic offshore and on shore installations, the use of Sonobuoys and Processing Systems offers very cost effective means of underwater surveillance.

IAF Air show at Srinagar

805. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Air Force organised an air show at Srinagar in July, 2003 for general public there;

(b) whether a recruitment drive of airmen was also launched on the occasion;

(c) if so, the response of youth of the Kashmir Valley; and

(d) the number of persons selected for Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The response has been quite encouraging.

(d) 379 candidates, who had passed, were found medically fit. These candidates have been included in the national merit list for recruitment into the IAF.

Defence Production Unit in Gujarat

806. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been received from Government of Gujarat for starting Defence production unit in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Task Force was set up to *inter-alia* examine the issue. The Task Force has recently submitted its report.

Manufacture of Sukhoi-MKI fighters by HAL

807. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that HAL has said that it will roll out the first locally built Sukhoi-MKI fighters in 2004;

(b) whether HAL is spending Rs. 32.5 billion to make this aircraft in addition to a capital investment of Rs. 32.5 billion on equipment and tooling; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The first SU-30 MKI aircraft under license manufacture at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is planned to be delivered to Indian Air Force in 2004-2005.